

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, May 21, 2012, 4:30 pm, at the Lilly Nature Center. Present at said meeting were Richard Shockley, Karen Springer, John MacDonald, Patrick Flannelly, Aimee Jacobsen and Attorney Andy Gutwein. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, Dan Dunten and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Present from the City was Council President, Ann Hunt. Absent from the meeting was Council members Gerald Thomas, Gerry Keen, and department staff member, Lee Booth.

Richard convened the Board at 4:33pm.

The first item of the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the April 16, 2012 meeting. Pat motioned to approve the minutes. John seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Superintendent** – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing

**Assistant Superintendent** – Pennie reported on the following:

- Softball league play started on Tuesday, May 8, instead of Monday due to rain. We have 28 coed teams and 10 men's teams. The teams play Monday-Thursday, starting at 6pm.
- The Mayor has raised \$12,450 for Global Fest. We received \$2,500 from the Vectren Foundation. We are also listed in the 2011 Vectren Foundation Annual Report. We have a new volunteer coordinator for Global Fest; Chris Campbell has agreed to help us.
- I will be attending the National Americans with Disabilities Act Symposium next Wednesday through Friday in Indianapolis.
- The Department of Justice announced they are giving pool operators until January 2013 to equip their pools with means of handicapped accessible entry. For our main pool, we will need two means of entry. Once our pool lifts are delivered in mid-June, we will have met one requirement of entrance. We plan to hire Kurt Wahl Architecture to design the ADA improvements to the pool (ADA Consultants of Indiana stated what we needed in their report). We will be designing an additional handrail for our second means of entry to the pool. We plan to make the improvement following the closing of the pool in August.

**Parks** – Dan reported in Lee's absence on the following:

- Trail and Playground Inspections presented.
- Margerum Fountain is up and running
- Prepared softball fields for season
- Preparing the pool for the summer opening day this Friday, Board of Health inspector coming tomorrow
- Equipment repairs
- Grounds maintenance such as mowing, litter patrol, etc.

**Recreation Report** – Chris reported on the following:

- The pool opens this Friday, May 25, with Splash Bash from 1:00-4:00 pm. Swim lessons are available along with pool passes.
- The playground program continues to be a popular offering. Both playgrounds are full for both sessions.

**Morton Center** – Brenda reported on the following:

- The registration total for the winter/spring session at Morton was 1,588. Last year's total was 1,372. That is a 15.7% increase from last year. Our children's dance numbers were up 13% compared to last year's children's dance numbers.
- The Mor' Danc'n Dance Recital was well attended on Saturday, April 28. Approximately 800 people attended. The number does not include approximately 200 dancers.
- Active Living and Senior Fun Day was held on Wednesday, May 9. Nearly 250 seniors attended the movie and visited the wellness booths in the lobby. Approximately 170 seniors attended the free lunch and wellness presentation at the Home Economics Building at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds.
- Morton attended the West Lafayette Farmers' Market on Wednesday, May 16. Susan Kisinger attended with me and promoted her children's theatre classes. A number of people stopped by the booth to pick up a summer brochure.

**Stewardship Manager** – Dan reported on the following:

- DeTrash the Wabash was held Saturday, April 21. There were 200 people to help clean along both sides of the river.
- Planted 14 planters (LNC, Brown St. by Tapawingo Park, Riverside Skating Center front side, Margerum Fountain front side), plus 4 more tomorrow at pool
- A Purdue Communications 320 class has worked to produce 15 educational posters for kiosks. Some of the posters are on display today.
- A Purdue University May-Mester Professional Writing English class has been working on producing four documents relating to the use of the webcam and joystick.
- A Purdue University Graphic Arts student has been working with me to make a plant identification sign for the Rain Garden in Celery Bog Nature Area.
- A Video Production class at Purdue University has been working with me to develop six short educational videos relating to Celery Bog Nature Area.
- The MindBOGgling Event was held last Saturday. There were an estimated 250 attendees during the day. There were educational programs and booths offered for youths and adults. An estimated 125 attendees came for the evening program, which consisted of nature-related music, readings and art.

**Old Business**

n/a

**New Business**

**Wabash Heritage Trail Signs Proposal**

Joe presented information, requesting comments or questions. Joe noted since the funds were available, we would opt for the 4'x3' signs. Discussion followed. Karen motioned to approve proceeding with the signage as discussed. Pat seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**West Lafayette School Board** – Karen reported the following:

- High School finals begin tomorrow; the last day for students is Thursday and High School graduation is Saturday at 7:00pm. There are 13 Valedictorians and 1 Salutatorian.

- The West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School received gold medal status from the U.S. News & World Report. It is ranked # 2 in the State of Indiana (highest public school), 269<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., and 166<sup>th</sup> in math & science.

**Wabash River**

Andy reported that both he and Richard attended the last meeting, providing an update for the Lafayette Sewer Overflow Underground System. They have made a dramatic change in the storage quantity that they have now, so that now when rainwater overflows, it will be contained in an underground pipe, rather than having the overflows into the Wabash River. They are going to continue it and expand it to the North, along the river.

Richard noted there is a more comprehensive plan listed on the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation's website. Richard noted that he and Andy were absent from the meeting when the thumb drives, with information, were passed out. If anyone is interested in obtaining one of the thumb drives, Richard will arrange with Stan Lambert to get the information.

**Other****Maintenance Positions**

Joe reported we have two maintenance positions resigning, Patrick Smith & Brad Walker. Joe requested Park Board approval for hiring the two most eligible employees from the most recent interviewing process, provided they are still available & interested. Amy motioned to approve the hiring for the soon-to-be vacancies in the maintenance department. John seconded, and the motion carried.

**Annual Park Board Picnic**

Joe requested moving the annual Park Board picnic from July to September, noting a few different reasons, such as the time of year often yields more absences due to vacations, heat and construction in and around Happy Hollow Park. Discussion followed. The Board consensus was to move the annual picnic from July to September.

**Paula R. Woods Park Proposal**

Joe presented a request from Mary Jane Chew, the niece of Paula Woods (daughter of Paula's sister) requesting to add an additional bench in the park, along with three forsythia. The bench would include a plaque with Ron Woods' name because the family feels that Ron should "be in the park also." The bench would be very similar to the memorial bench installed last year. While working there, we can also redo the concrete pad for the water fountain, so that we can install a new fountain that meets ADA requirements. Karen motioned to approve the family's proposal as presented. John seconded, and the motion carried.

**Pay Claims**

John motioned for claims to be paid. Pat seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Adjourn**

Amy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Pat seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

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Presiding Officer

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Secretary